

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY' S AUDIENCE WITH SHAH

REFS: AMMAN 1972, TEHRAN 2369, 2373, 2475

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES SHAH WILL RAISE SUBJECT OF IRAQI
OCCUPATION OF KUWAITI TERRITORY AND WILL EXPECT DEPUTY
SECRETARY TO EXPRESS U. S. VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE. DEPARTMENT
SUGGESTS ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

-- OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE IRAQI OCCUPATION OF KUWAITI
TERRITORY WAS PLANNED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE IRAQI
GOVERNMENT AND WAS NOT RPT NOT INSPIRED BY THE SOVIETS.
WE BELIEVE THAT THE IRAQIS ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT
THEIR ACCESS TO THE GULF AND THAT THEIR AIM IS TO PUT THE
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APPROACHES TO UMM QASR UNDER THEIR CONTROL. WHILE WE BELIEVE KUWAIT WOULD NOT SURRENDER SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS OF BUBIYAN AND WARABA, KUWAIT MIGHT CONCLUDE THAT A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT GIVING THE IRAQIS SOME ACCESS TO THE ISLANDS WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO A CONTINUING CONFRONTATION. HOWEVER, KUWAIT WILL NEED SOME EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT FROM FRIENDLY STATES TO STRENGTHEN ITS NEGOTIATING POSITION. WE BELIEVE THIS INCIDENT HAS CAUSED THE KUWAITIS TO DO SOME RETHINKING ABOUT THEIR FOREIGN POLICY, AND TO RECONSIDER WHO THEIR FRIENDS ARE IN THE GULF REGION.

-- THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF KUWAIT. AT KUWAIT'S REQUEST, WE HAVE A TEAM IN KUWAIT NOW LOOKING INTO THE QUESTION OF AIR DEFENSE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE KUWAITIS HAVE ALSO APPROACHED THE BRITISH. WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST KUWAIT IN THE LONG- TERM DEVELOPMENT OF ITS DEFENSE CAPABILITY. HOWEVER, AS THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION PREFER, THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT PLAY A DIRECT MILITARY ROLE, NOR WOULD THIS BE WISE IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBLE ENCOURAGEMENT THIS WOULD OFFER TO GREATER SOVIET INVOLVEMENT. THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO KUWAITI NEEDS FOR MILITARY SUPPORT MUST COME FROM COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT THE KUWAITIS WILL EXPLORE EVERY POSSIBLE CHANNEL FOR SETTLEMENT BEFORE APPROACHING OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION FOR MILITARY SUPPORT. HOWEVER, KUWAIT CAN NOT DEFEND ITSELF, AND DEPENDS ON OUTSIDE SUPPORT TO ENSURE ITS INTEGRITY. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR IRAN TO ASSURE KUWAIT OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY KUWAITI REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. WE EXPECT, OF COURSE, THAT IRAN WILL ALSO BE CONSULTING WITH OTHER FRIENDLY ARAB COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN, ABOUT COORDINATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE EFFORTS TO HELP KUWAIT. THE UNITED STATES AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE ALREADY SUPPORTING JORDAN, IN PART BECAUSE OF ITS POTENTIALLY USEFUL GULF ROLE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HIS MAJESTY'S VIEWS ON THIS.

-- HIS MAJESTY SHOULD HAVE NO DOUBTS CONCERNING THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE STABILITY OF THE GULF. WE HOPE
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IN PARTICULAR THAT IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WILL CONSULT

CLOSELY ON THE QUESTION OF GULF SECURITY. WE WOULD
WELCOME HIS MAJESTY' S VIEWS ON HOW SUCH CONSULTATION MIGHT
BE STRENGTHENED.

2. BACKGROUND PAPER ON KUWAIT- IRAQ BORDER DISPUTE IN-
CLUDED IN PAPERS FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE. PORTER

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